Softball sweeps Lipscomb doubleheader

Dortch hits inside-the-park home run

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - The Middle Tennessee softball team edged out a pair of nailbiters to grab two non-conference victories over in-state foe Lipscomb on Wednesday night at Blue Raider Field. After taking home a 4-3 victory in game one, the Blue Raiders closed the deal with a 3-1 decision in game two. Propelled by a fourth inning inside-the-park home run by Kelsey Dortch, the Blue Raiders (13-23) came from behind to win game one. Dortch ended the game 2-for-3 with a pair of runs batted in and a run scored. Brittney Banania and Corrie Abel also tallied two hits with Abel earning two walks and an RBI as well. On the mound, Caty Jutson recorded her fourth win of the year, going the distance, giving up three earned runs and striking out five. Middle Tennessee grabbed the first lead of the ball game thanks to some clutch hitting by the senior duo of Banania and Abel. Banania reached on a two-out single to center, and Abel followed up with a triple to bring her home. The triple marked Abel's first since 2009 and just the sixth in her career. However, the lead was short-lived, as Lipscomb scored twice in the top of the fourth, setting the stage for Dortch's two-run homer in the bottom of the frame. The Blue Raiders added another run an inning later as Kaycee Popham was hit by a pitch with the bases loaded. Janele Robinson was lights out in the second game to pick up her second victory of the season. The sophomore from Toledo, Ill., went seven innings while allowing just one run and striking out six. Middle Tennessee outhit the Bisons 5-4 in the game with five different Blue Raiders picking up a hit. Both Kelsey Woodruff and Banania led the way, each going 1-for-2 with a run batted in. Engaged in a pitcher's duel for much of the ball game, Middle Tennessee got on the board with a pair of runs in the bottom of the fifth. Woodruff laced a two-out single up the middle to bring the first run across, and Banania brought the second run home an at bat later with a

single through the right. After MT added an insurance run in the sixth, Lipscomb homered to right in the seventh to cut the deficit to two. But the next two Bison batters would be put down in order to secure the sweep. Middle Tennessee will have this weekend off before heading to Oxford, Miss., for a doubleheader at SEC opponent Ole Miss on April 13.

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